



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICANT: PACE MICRO TECHNOLOGY PLC)
)
Application No.: 09/943,463)
)
Filing Date: 08/31/01)
)
Title: TELEVISION PROGRAM SELECTION)
MEANS)
)
Art Unit: UNKNOWN)

TRANSMITTAL OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

Director for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is a certified copy of British Patent Application No. 0021547.5
for which the above-identified patent application claims priority from.


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undersigned as soon as possible.

Respectfully Submitted

HEAD, JOHNSON & KACHIGIAN

Date: 10/17/01

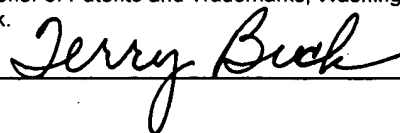
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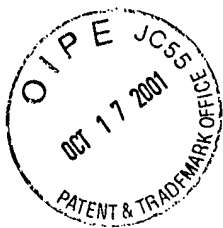

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

#3

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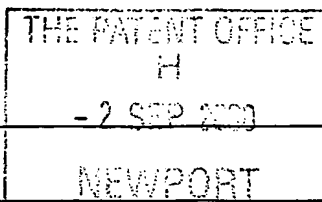
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The Patent Office

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1. Your reference	AT-G30155		
2. Patent application number (The Patent Office will fill in this part)	0021547.5		
3. Full name, address and postcode of each applicant (underline all surnames)	<div style="text-align: right;"> 04SEP00 E565304-8 D00346 P01/7700 0.00-0021547.5 2 SEP 2000 Pace Micro Technology Plc Victoria Road Saltaire Shipley BD18 3LF 7588 569001 U.K. </div>		
Patents ADP number (if you know it) If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation			
4. Title of the invention	Television System		
5. Name of your agent (if you have one)	Bailey Walsh & Co.		
"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)	5, York Place Leeds LS1 2SD		
Patents ADP number (if you know it)	224001		
6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number	Country	Priority application number (if you know it)	Date of filing (day / month / years)
7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, the earlier application	Number of earlier application	Date of filing (day / month / years)	
8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer "Yes" if:	Yes		
a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or c) any named applicant is a corporate body See note (d)			

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Continuation sheets of this form

Description 6

Claim(s)

Abstract

Drawing(s) 1 + 1

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many of each item.

Priority Documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (Please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application

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Television System

This invention relates to a television system having means to allow a user to flag one or more favourite/preferred channels.

A television system hereinafter described includes a broadcaster for transmitting digital data via terrestrial, cable or digital means, which is received by a broadcast data receiver (called a set top box). The digital data results in a large number of channels and programs available for selection by a user. Conventional listing means for the large number of channels and programs are inadequate and this has resulted in the development of Electronic Programme Guides (EPGs).

Although a large number of channels are available for a user to view, it is likely that a user will have a number of preferred channels which he/she will frequently watch. Conventionally, if a user wants to watch a particular preferred channel, the user has to scroll through each channel in turn until they find their favourite channel or they have to remember the channel number of the same and type this number into the remote control. The large number of channels available makes it difficult for a user to remember a number of preferred channels and it is time consuming for a user to have to select each channel in turn to find their preferred channel.

In order to overcome the above problem, some television systems provide a means for flagging favourite/preferred channels. For example, in a television system incorporating an EPG, channel and programme information are typically provided in a grid format for display on the display screen. In order for a user to flag favourite/preferred channels the user may be required to generate a new display grid of preferred channels by selecting each preferred channel in turn from a list of available

channels using a single button on a remote control to cycle through the same. When the user reaches a channel they wish to select, they can select the same as a favourite channel. In future when the user wishes to tune to a previously flagged favourite channel, the user is required to return to the grid display and select a particular channel from the list of preferred channels. Sometimes this system is an interactive system which means the user may need to cycle through many channels to get to the one they want, and each time the user moves down to the next channel on the grid of available channels, the set top box tunes into that channel before moving onto further channels on the list. This is obviously time consuming and therefore undesirable.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a system to allow a user to flag preferred/favourite channels and/or programs which is quick and easy to use.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a television system including a display screen and a broadcast data receiver for generation of audio/video and auxiliary data for the display of a number of channels and wherein one or more user preferred channels are user selectable from said number of channels and can be assigned to a designated button of a remote control device and selected by the user of the system for display by using the one or more defined remote control buttons.

According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a television system including a display screen and a broadcast data receiver for generation of audio/video and auxiliary data, said television system incorporating an EPG for display on said display screen and said television system including a remote control and wherein one or more user preferred channels from said EPG can be assigned to and are

selectable by the user of the system for display on said display screen using one or more defined control buttons on the remote control.

Preferably four preferred channels can be flagged as favourite channels by the user, each channel being assigned to one of four control buttons provided on the remote control.

Preferably the four favourite channels are assigned to the four coloured (fast text) buttons on the remote control. When the user wishes to change to a favourite channel, the user simply needs to press the corresponding coloured button.

Preferably a pop-up window can be displayed on the display screen to show the user which channels are mapped to which control buttons.

According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of flagging favourite channels from a plurality of available channels provided for display on a display screen of a television system, said television system including a broadcast data receiver for generation of audio/video and auxiliary data and wherein said method includes selection of one or more user-preferred channels from a plurality of available channels displayed in an EPG of said television system, depressing a user-defined control button on said remote control for a predetermined period of time, thereby assigning said preferred channel to said remote control button.

Once a preferred/favourite channel has been assigned to a remote control button, in the future the user has to simply depress the control button to view the said channel.

Preferably a confirmation message will appear on the display screen and/or remote control to inform the user that the channel has been assigned to the depressed control button.

Preferably the EPG identifies flagged user preferred channels when the EPG is displayed on the display screen.

Typically once a channel has been assigned to a control button, an existing channel previously assigned to that button, will be replaced by the newly selected channel.

Preferably a query message is displayed on the screen to inform the user that an existing channel has previously been assigned to that button, thereby providing the user with the option of selecting a different button if required.

An advantage of the present invention is that it allows a user to quickly and easily select a favourite channel using a single button. It also provides a quick and easy method of flagging favourite channels.

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying Figures wherein:

Figures 1 and 2 are examples of displays on a display screen according to the present invention.

Referring to Figure 1, there is illustrated a television system including a display screen 2. The television system is provided with means to enable a user to quickly and easily flag favourite/preferred channels. A user selects a particular channel they wish to flag as a favourite channel and the television system tunes into the selected channel and displays the same on the screen 2.

A number of buttons 4 are provided on the remote control 6 to allow the user to move between different channels. The remote control 6 includes further control buttons 8, 10, 12 and 14 and are coloured red, blue, green, yellow respectively. The user selects a particular coloured button 8 and depresses the same for a pre-determined period of time, thereby assigning the selected channel to button 8. A confirmation message 16 appears on the display screen 2 to inform the user that the channel has been successfully assigned to button 8.

A pop-up window 18 can be displayed on screen 2 to inform the user which channels have been assigned to which buttons on the remote control, as illustrated in Figure 2.

The pop-up window 18 can be displayed by depressing a coloured button 8, 10, 12 or 14. Further depression of one of the displayed buttons will then switch the television system to the flagged channel.

For example, if a user wishes to set a movie channel as one of their quick select favourites, the user selects the movie channel from the EPG display. The movie channel can also be selected by entering the numerical value of the channel or scrolling through the channels until the preferred channel is found.

The user then has to decide which of the coloured fast text buttons on the remote control the selected channel is to be assigned thereto. The user-selected button is then depressed for a predetermined period of time, for example, 2-3 seconds, thereby flagging the favourite channel to that particular button on the remote control. In future, when the user wishes to view the favourite channel, the user simply depresses the button to which the favourite channel was assigned.

Thus the present invention allows a user to select a favourite channel quickly and easily by depressing a single button. The system requires no complicated setting up, thereby enabling users of all ages to utilise the system.

Figure 1

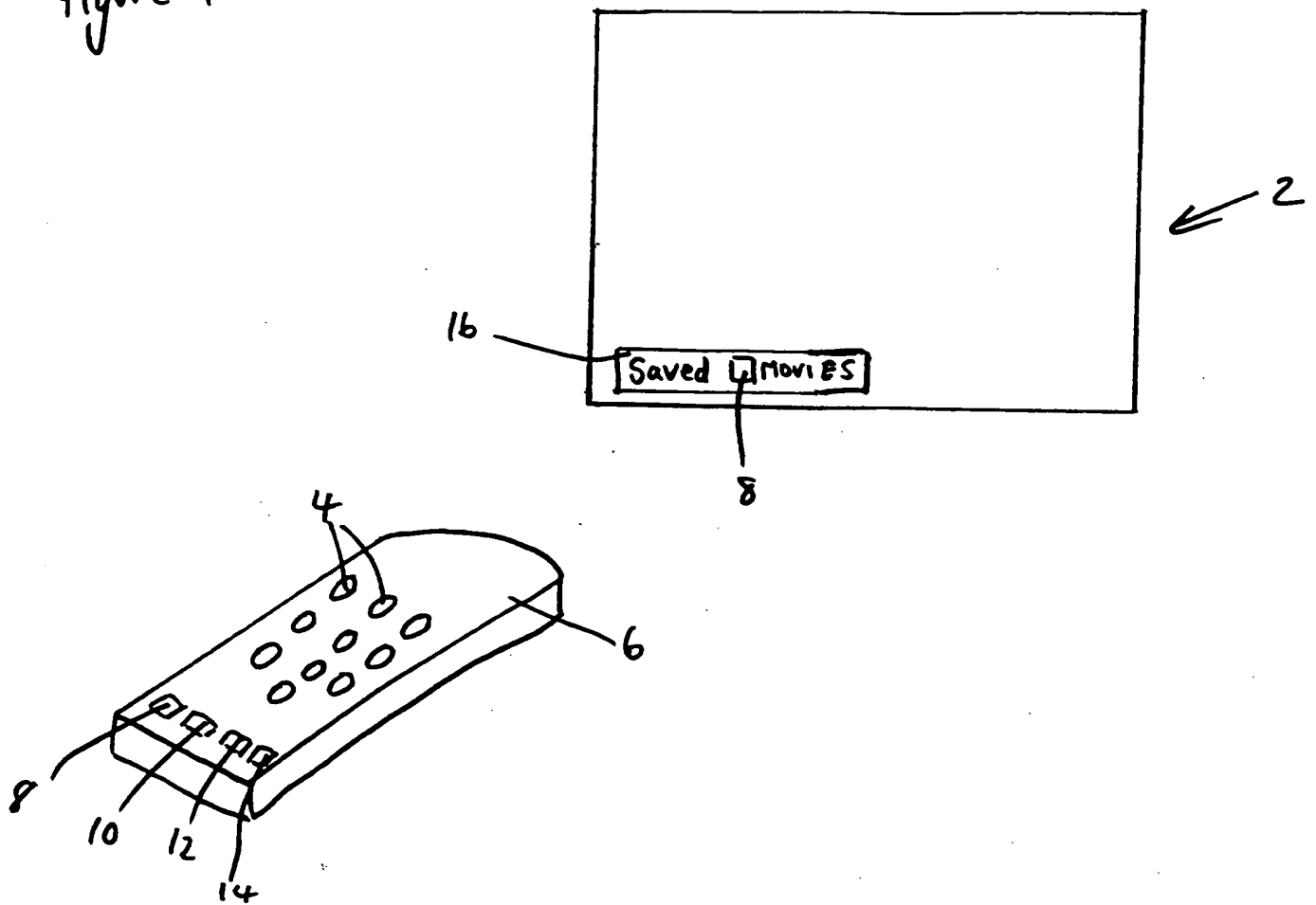


Figure 2

